



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 9, 1945

SECRET

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Harry:

As you are well aware, the Army for the past two years has been vitally interested in a highly secret project for the development of an atomic explosive. This explosive, as you know, involves the release of energy through the shattering of atoms of heavy elements.

During the period that the Army has been engaged in the supervision of this experimentation, numerous efforts have been made by the Soviets to obtain the highly secret information concerning the experimentation and this Bureau has been actively following such Soviet efforts.

The German Government has also been interested in the same type of experimentation in Germany and has attempted to get information regarding the atomic experimentation in the United States.

Recently, in connection with the operation of a radio station by a German agent under control of the Federal Bureau of Investigation but which station the Germans believe to be a free station, an inquiry was received from Germany containing the following questions regarding the status of atomic explosive experimentation in the United States:

First, where is heavy water being produced? In what quantities? What method? Who are users?

Second, in what Laboratories is work being carried on with large quantities of uranium? Did accidents happen there? What does the protection against Neutronic Rays consist of in these Laboratories? What is the material and the strength of coating?

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Third, is anything known concerning the production of bodies or molecules out of metallic uranium rods, tubes, plates? Are these bodies provided with coverings for protection? Of what do these coverings consist?

We have already advised the appropriate authorities in the War Department concerning these German inquiries.

I thought the foregoing would be of considerable interest to the President.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar